



Tree Canopy in the District of Columbia: Mapping Our Progress (2006 to 2011)

Overview: The District of Columbia (DC) Department of Transportation's (DDOT) Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) and other Federal and local stakeholders care for and manage the urban forests of the District of Columbia. Trees provide many economic, social, and health benefits that form the basis of livability in urban municipalities. Therefore, it is important for urban development to work closely with urban forest health protection and management goals to maintain community livability. The recent influx of new urban residents and neighborhood revitalization in the District has created challenges for maintaining existing canopy and for providing planting areas for new trees. Land ownership and geographic distribution also play a critical role in maintaining a uniform urban forest.

Here, each category of ownership has unique management objectives and regulatory constraints. A primary example is DC's land ownership distribution which is 43% federal, 50% private and 7% DC government. This presents unique constraints for the District of Columbia in providing comprehensive urban forest health management services.

Periodic Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) mapping is an essential tool for managing urban forest health. An initial UTC study was conducted in 2008 (using 2006 satellite imagery). This Factsheet summary provides preliminary results of the re-analyzed 2006 data and new 2011 data to reveal city-wide forest cover change. DC UFA will use these results to help identify strategies to reach the District's Urban Tree Canopy Goal of 40% by 2035.

Note: This preliminary factsheet is part of an ongoing sub-regional analysis of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

District of Columbia	2006	2011
Tree Canopy (acres)	13,791	14,609
Tree Cover (percent)	35.1%	37.2%

DC Urban Tree Canopy is currently **37.2%** and has increased **2.1%** since 2006.

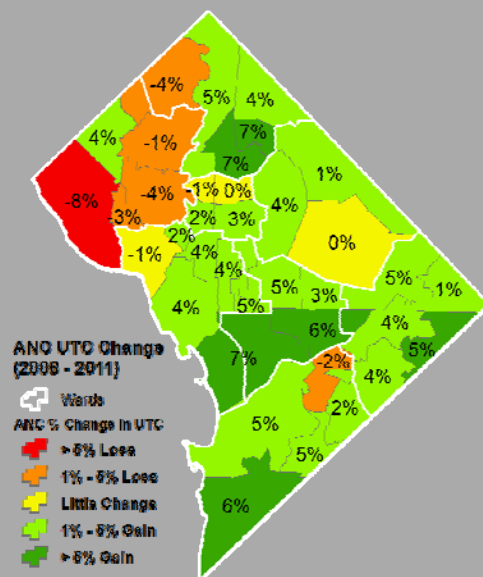




Results by Ward and ANC:

The District's political boundaries consist of eight Wards divided into 39 sub-areas called Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs). The 2011 analysis determined that UTC in the District's Wards ranged from 20.9% to 53.2%. All Wards gained urban forest canopy except Ward 3. In 2011, the analysis showed that canopy cover for the ANCs ranged from 9.9% to 58.0% and that twenty-nine gained canopy while ten showed a loss. Please see the following summary table and map for detailed results.

Ward	Land Acres	2006 UTC Acres	2006 UTC %	2011 UTC Acres	2011 UTC %	Change in UTC Acres	Change in UTC %
1	1,578	319	20.2%	344	21.8%	25	1.6%
2	4,107	1,000	24.4%	1,134	27.6%	134	3.3%
3	6,680	3,797	56.8%	3,551	53.2%	-246	-3.7%
4	5,727	2,694	47.0%	2,877	50.2%	183	3.2%
5	6,557	1,936	29.5%	2,020	30.8%	84	1.3%
6	3,666	565	15.4%	767	20.9%	202	5.5%
7	5,406	1,946	36.0%	2,159	39.9%	213	3.9%
8	5,548	1,533	27.6%	1,757	31.7%	223	4.0%
Totals	39,269	13,791		14,609		818	



Using the Results of this Assessment:

The Urban Forestry Administration is responsible for maintaining the health of the District's street tree canopy of 148,000 trees growing in the street right-of-way. This 2011 forest cover assessment will serve as our UTC benchmark for identifying the existing canopy and appropriate planting areas. In order to reach the Urban Tree Canopy Goal of 40% by 2035, UFA suggests the following plan of action:

- A. Target specific planting sites on private property as well as in open spaces such as District and Federal parks.
- B. Develop individual UTC sub-goals based on land use and ownership.
- C. Map and quantify planting opportunities to enhance forest cover to address forest fragmentation in vegetated areas and near large areas of impervious surface.
- D. Identify and engage partners and community members in planting and maintaining new urban trees.

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